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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Commodities
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on Iron Ore
Fourth session
Geneva, 23 October 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of iron ore statistics and of other institutions' activities and publications on iron ore

4. Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore

5. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report to the Standing Committee on Commodities.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with normal practice, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. It will be recalled that, at its third session in October 1994, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore was chaired by a representative of an iron-ore consuming country; the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur at that session was a representative of an iron-ore producing country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The substantive items for the provisional agenda in section I above were approved by the Group of Experts at its third session (see TD/B/CN.1/21 - TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/15, para. 34). Suggestions for the organization of work are made in section III below.

Item 3: Review of iron ore statistics and of other institutions' activities and publications on iron ore

To facilitate the annual review of world iron ore statistics, the Intergovernmental Group will have before it a document by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Iron ore statistics 1987-1994" (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/17). This publication was prepared mainly on the basis of replies received from Governments to the secretariat's annual questionnaire on iron ore sent to all States members of UNCTAD in January 1995. Supplementary year-to-date statistics and estimates for 1995 and 1996 will also be made available to the participants, presenting the latest data received from Governments and industry.

For its review of activities and publications on iron ore carried out by other institutions and in individual countries, the Intergovernmental Group will have before it a document presenting an annotated bibliography on iron ore prepared annually by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/19). Part I of the document contains an annotated bibliography of relevant studies prepared by international organizations and other relevant institutions or bodies. Part II lists studies and publications on iron ore communicated by Governments. Part III combines brief summaries of the studies which relate to iron ore mining capacity and export capabilities.

Item 4: Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore

To assist the Intergovernmental Group in examining the trends and recent developments with regard to production, consumption and trade, as well as other key factors influencing the world iron ore market, the secretariat has prepared its

annual review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore - 1995 (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/18). In order to contribute to an effective discussion under this item, experts from each delegation will be invited to describe national or regional developments pertinent to prospects for the iron ore market.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

It is proposed that items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda in section I above should constitute the substantive items of the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group. The Group may wish to make suggestions regarding the dates for scheduling its fifth session in 1996.

Item 6: Other business

Under this item, the Group may wish to follow up on discussions held in previous sessions on two issues : (i) the possible application by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore to the Common Fund for Commodities for designation as an eligible International Commodity Body (ICB) for Second Account purposes; and (ii) the activities of the Trust Fund Project on Iron Ore Information and their relations with the statistical work undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat under its regular budget.

Item 7: Adoption of the report to the Standing Committee on Commodities

The report of the Intergovernmental Group on its fourth session will be considered by the Standing Committee on Comodities at its fourth session.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

23 October 1995

10.00 hrs. Plenary meeting

After the election of officers and adoption of the agenda, the Group may wish to establish an informal working group to proceed with the discussions on agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6 in an informal setting. It is proposed that the proceedings of the informal working group would be summarized by the Chairman at the closing plenary meeting.

The schedule proposed for the informal meetings during the three working days of the session is as follows:

- First day: Statistics and information about studies and activities related to iron ore carried out by other

institutions and in individual countries;

- Second day: Review of current market developments and outlook for iron ore; presentations by guest speakers, government representatives and industry advisers;

- Third day: Preparations for the next session; and other business.

11.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs. Informal working group

Item 3 - Review of iron ore statistics and of other institutions' and activities and publications on iron ore

(i) Iron ore statistics 1987-1994

For the purposes of the Working Group's review of iron ore statistics, delegations will be expected to revise the statistics by providing their most recent national statistics. The secretariat will endeavour to ensure that a revised version of the document, incorporating revisions and new data, will be available by the end of the session.

(ii) Year-to-date statistics and estimates for 1995 and 1996

To assist the Group in assessing the year-to-date situation and possible trends for the following year, the secretariat will distribute to each delegation at the beginning of the session an informal document with the "Latest iron ore statistics available for 1994 and estimates for 1995" together with a mini-questionnaire in order to collect the latest available data and/or estimates of key statistics for the current and following year. The compilation of the data, as well as of any additional statistics held by the UNCTAD secretariat for the current year, will be made available to participants at the end of the session as an informal document called "Latest statistics provided by delegations during the third session or available in the UNCTAD secretariat."

The secretariat will also report to the Intergovernmental Group on progress in the implementation of the system of national statistical correspondents for the regular transmission of iron ore statistics to the UNCTAD secretariat. Governments which have not yet designated statistical correspondents, or which wish to make changes or corrections, may take this opportunity to do so.

(iii) Other institutions activities and publications on iron ore

The document "Annotated bibliography on iron ore - 1995" (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/19) will be introduced by the secretariat. Representatives from international organizations concerned will be invited to elaborate on their studies and activities.

24 October 1995

10.00 hrs. Informal working group
and
15.00 hrs.

Item 4 - Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore

(i) Secretariat and guest speakers

The secretariat will present the document "Review of the current situation and outlook for iron ore - 1995" (TD/B/CN.1/IRON ORE/18). Arrangements have been made for presentations to be made by guest-speakers on the following topics:

- "The world market for iron ore" by Mr. A. Trickett, General Manager Economic Affairs, International Iron and Steel Institute, Brussels;

- "Quality considerations in production and trade of iron ore" by Mr. J. Rogers, Vice President, Société Générale de Surveillance -SGS, Geneva; and

- "What future for iron ore in the next ten years" by Mr. M. Boucraut, Director, Raw Material Division, Sollac - Groupe Usinor Sacilor, Paris.

These presentations are expected to be followed by lively discussions.

(ii) National and industry presentations

Individual delegations are invited to report on recent iron ore developments at national levels. Arrangements have been made for presentations by some representatives from the iron-ore producing and consuming industry. At the same time, industry advisers are highly encouraged to take an active part in the discussions on any specific issue which may influence future trends and developments in the iron ore market.

25 October 1995

10.00 hrs. Informal working group

Item 5 - Preparations for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore

The Group may wish to consider the provisional agenda and also recommend possible dates for the fifth session in 1996.

Item 6 - Other business

See annotation in section II.

17.00 hrs. Plenary

Items 3, 4, 5, and 6

Summary by the Chairman of the proceedings of the informal working group.

Item 7 - Adoption of the report to the Standing Committee on Commodities